

Message Text

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 10461 ACTIONSECSTATE INFO AMMAN BEIRUT

DAMASCUS JIDDA TRIPOLI MOSCOW TEL AVIV DATED 18 OCT 75

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 10461

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT EG

SUBJECT: SADAT SPEECH TO PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY - OCTOBER 18

SUMMARY: SPEAKING TO PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY OCT 18, SADAT REVIEWED
GOE FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICY. IN CONTRAST TO HIS SEPTEMBER
SPEECHES, TONE WAS RELATIVELY MILD AND TREATMENT OF HIS VARIOUS
SUBJECTS RELATIVELY NON-CONTROVERSIAL. SYRIANS AND PALESTINIANS
WERE NOT ATTACKED FOR THEIR ANTI-EGYPTIAN VIEWS AND SOVIETS
ESCAPED INVECTIVE WHICH HAD CHARACTERIZED SADAT'S SEPT 28 REMARKS.
GOE POLICY, PRESIDENT SAID, IS BASED ON FRIENDSHIP FOR BOTH US AND
USSR. HE WARNED AGAINST CONSEQUENCES OF SRAEL RECEIVING SPECIAL
WEAPONDRY. ON INTERNAL MATTERS, SADAT STRESSED NECESSITY OF MAKING
OPEN DOOR WORK, BUT GAVE NO INDICATION OF REAL UCHLYE SRING#OF
EXISTING IMPEDIMENTS TO FOREIGN INVESTMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT SADAT ADDRESSED INAUGURAL MEETING OF SPECIAL AND FINAL
SESSION OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY OCT 18. SPEECH WAS RELATIVELY SHORT
(50 MINUTES) AND WAS DELIVERED IN CALM, FORMAL MANNER. FOLLOWING
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ARE HIGHLIGHTS:

2. BEFORE PROCEEDING TO HIS MAIN THEME, WHICH WAS ACHIEVEMENTS AND TASKS OF PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY, SADAT GAVE RESUME OF STATUS OF EGYPT'S FOREIGN RELATIONS:

A. GOE/USG. PRESIDENT DID NOT DIRECTLY MENTION HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO US. HE EMPHASIZED SINAI II HAD NOT BEEN NEGOTIATED FOR EGYPT ALONE, BUT ALSO FOR SYRIA AND PALESTINE. "WE OBTAINED PLEDGES FROM PRESIDENT FORD, NOT IN HIS NAME, BUT IN NAME OF USG, TO BRING ABOUT A SIMILAR DISENGAGEMENT ON SYRIAN FRONT AND A STEP TOWARD RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE."

B. ARMS FOR ISRAEL. PRESIDENT RECORDED HIS "CONCERN ABOUT AND OBJECTION TO EVERY ESCALATION BY US IN ARMING ISRAEL, ESPECIALLY WHERE TYPE OF WEAPON IS CONCERNED. THIS DOES NOT REPEAT NOT CONFORM TO ROLE US NOW PLAYING IN AREA. THIS ESCALATION ON ONE SIDE MUST BE MET BY ESCALATION ON OUR PART AND THE CONSEQUENCES ARE CLEAR TO ALL."

C. GOE/USSR. SOVIETS, WHO HAD BEEN LAMBASTED BY SADAT IN THREE SEPT SPEECHES, GOT OFF LIGHTLY THIS TIME. PRESIDENT MADE INVIDIOUS MENTION OF "IMPORTED" SOCIALISM AND CALLED EXPULSION OF SOVIET EXPERTS ONE OF HIS AND ASSEMBLY'S CHIEF ACHIEVEMENTS (45 SECONDS OF APPLAUSE GREETED THIS REFERENCE TO EXPULSION OF EXPERTS).

D. SUPER POWERS. WESTERN AMBASSADORS WERE STRUCK BY PRESIDENT'S THANKS TO PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY FOR SUPPORTING HIS POLICY OF MOVING FROM RELATIONSHIP TO SPECIAL FRIENDSHIP WITH USSR AND SPECIAL HOSTILITY TO US TO THE POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP WITH BOTH.

E. LEBANON. WARNING THAT ANY INTERVENTION IS COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE, PRESIDENT SAID IT IS HIS DUTY TO STRESS THAT UNDERMINING OF LEBANESE ENTITY

THREATENS TO DRAG REGION INTO DARKNESS AND TO PROVIDE POLITICAL, PROPAGANDA, AND MILITARY OPPORTUNITIES TO ISRAEL. HE URGED ALL CONCERNED PARTIES TO FACE UP TO THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES, SINCE TRAGEDY IN LEBANON NOW COULD BE GREATER THAN 1948 PALESTINIAN

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TRAGEDY. ME, CRADLE OF EARLY RELIGION, MUST REMAIN RELIGIOUSLY TOLERANT. IN SHORT, "HANDS OFF LEBANON."

F. SYRIA. PRESIDENT, IN CONTRAST TO SEPT SPEECHES, DID NOT ATTACK HIS SYRIAN CRITICS AND, IN FACT, DID NOT MENTION SYRIA OR ASSAD BY NAME. HE STRESSED MERELY THAT GOE'S POLICY IS BASED ON RESTORATION PALESTINIAN RIGHTS AND ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORY. COMPLETE LIBERATION IS IMPOSSIBLE IN ONE FELL

SWOOP; CONSTANT MOVEMENT IS PRACTICAL SOLUTION.

3. TURNING TO INTERNAL AFFAIRS, PRESIDENT PAID TRIBUTE TO ARMED FORCES AND SAID SOCIALISM IS EGYPT'S PATH. HE STRESSED DOMESTIC ENERGIES MUST BE CHanneLED TOWARD PRODUCTION; TO IMPEDE PRODUCTION IS CRIME REPRESENTING SQUANDERING OF PROSPERITY ACHIEVED BY OTHERS. DUTY HAS PRIORITY OVER RIGHTS AND PRODUCTION OVER CONSUMPTION. (COMMENT: IN OTHER WORDS, STUDENTS SHOULD STICK TO THEIR BOOKS AND CARPENTERS TO THEIR LATHES).

4. PRESIDENT MADE STRONG PITCH FOR PROMPT AND CLEAR STATUTORY CHANGES TO "DESTROY" IMPEDIMENTS TO FOREIGN INVESTMENT. PUBLIC SECTOR, TOGETHER WITH PRIVATE SECTOR, WILL CONTINUE TO REPRESENT ONE OF TWIN PILLARS OF EGYPTIAN ECONOMY. HOWEVER, HE SAID, PUBLIC SECTOR EFFICIENCY MUST BE DRASTICALLY IMPROVED IMMEDIATELY.

5. PRESIDENT OFFERED THREE SOPS TO HIS PUBLIC: TAX LAWS MUST BE SIMPLIFIED AND EQUITABLY APPLIED, SOCIAL INSURANCE MUST IMMEDIATELY BE EXTENDED TO EVERY EGYPTIAN, AND STATE EXPENDITURES ON LUXURIES MUST BE REDUCED. PRESIDENCY BUDGET, SADAT SAID, HAS ALREADY BEEN DIMINSHED BY ONE THIRD AND THIS SUM WILL BE SHIFTED TO INSURANCE FUND.

6. COMMENT: SPEECH CONTRASTED IN TONE AND SUBSTANCE WITH OTHER PUBLIC ADDRESSES DELIVERED BY SADAT SINCE SINAI II. THIS TIME, PRESIDENT'S TONE WAS MILD AND HIS TREATMENT OF VARIOUS SUBJECTS WAS RELATIVELY NON-CONTROVERSIAL. IN ARAB CONTEXT, HE SEEMED TOWISH TO LOWER THE POLITICAL TEMPERATURE BY ABSTAINING FROM ATTACKING HIS SYRIAN AND PALESTINIAN CRITICS. HE DID HIS DUTY AS EGYPTIAN LEADER BY DECLARING "HANDSOFF LEBANON". WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS PREVAILED UPON BY HIS ADVISORS TO AVOID GRATUITOUS ATTACKS ON ARAB AND SOVIET CRITICS AND ON THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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OCCASION HE ACCEPTED SUCH ADVICE. SOVIETS MUST BE RELIEVED THAT THEY WERENOT SINGLED OUT, AS OCCURRED IN SEPT SPEECHES, FOR LENGTHY AND VIRULENT ATTACKS, THOUGH SOVIET AMBASSADOR WAS CLEARLY UNHAPPY ABOUT APPLAUSE GIVEN TO PRESIDENT'S COMMENT ON EXPELLING SOVIET EXPERTS. PRESIDENT'S EMPHASIS ON NECESSITY FOR PROMPT DECISIVE ACTION BY ASSEMBLY TO PROVIDE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR ECONOMIC OPEN DOOR WAS INTERESTING, BUT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE THAT HE UNDERSTANDS WHAT IS INVOLVED IN MAKING THIS POLICY WORK. SPEECH SHOWED LITTLE CLEARCUT COMPREHENSION OF CONFLICT BETWEEN CONCEPTS OF (A) MAKING OPEN DOOR WORK BY EXPEDITIOUS ENCOURAGEMENT OF FOREIGN INVESTOR AND (B) PROTECTING THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

7. IN SHORT, SPEECH WAS STATESMANLIKE RESUME OF EGYPT'S FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICIES. INVECTIVE AND POLEMICS WERE LACKING.

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